

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 033136

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

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FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (CHARLES W. ROBINSON)

SUBJECT: AD HOC MEETING ON GRAIN RESERVES AS SEEN FROM
THE COMMISSION

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ALL EC CAPITALS BUENOS
AIRES CANBERRA MOSCOW TOKYO FROM EC BRUSSELS 12 FEB 75:

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PASS AGRICULTURE

GENEVA FOR MTN DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: AD HOC MEETING ON GRAIN RESERVES AS SEEN FROM THE COMMISSION

REF: A) LONDON 2044

B) LONDON 2163

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PAGE 02 STATE 033136

1. AFTER MALVE'S RETURN FROM THE AD HOC LONDON MEETING, THE MISSION

DISCUSSED WITH HIM HIS IMPRESSIONS OF THE RESULTS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS.

2. MALVE SAID THAT HE HAD GONE TO LONDON IN THE EXPECTATION OF FINDING ONE SITUATION, BUT THAT IN REALITY IT TURNED OUT TO BE QUITE DIFFERENT. FORTUNATELY HIS INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN FAIRLY FLEXIBLE, BUT HE HAD PUSHED EVEN BEYOND THESE. SEVERAL EVENTS OCCURRED IN LONDON WHICH HE BELIEVED JUSTIFIED RECONSIDERATION OF THE COMMUNITY'S FLAT APPROACH FAVORING CONSIDERATION OF GRAINS ARRANGEMENTS IN THE MTN CONTEXT ONLY. THE FIRST WAS THE PRESENCE OF THE RUSSIANS, WITHOUT WHOM NO GRAINS ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE. THE SECOND WAS THE EVIDENT AGREEMENT AMONG THE COMMUNITY, AUSTRALIA, CANADA AND ARGENTINA THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO TALK ONLY ABOUT RESERVES. RESERVES WERE ONLY ONE FEATURE OF A WORLD FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM, OTHER FEATURES OF WHICH WERE PRICES, TRADE, ETC. MALVE FELT THAT, AT THE END OF THE LONDON MEETING IT WAS APPARENT THAT ALL DELEGATIONS EXCEPT THE UNITED STATES HOLD THIS VIEW. MALVE SAID THAT THE DISCUSSIONS HAD CONVINCED HIM THAT ANY FOLLOW-UP TO THE LONDON MEETING WOULD HAVE TO ADDRESS ALL THE INTERCONNECTED FEATURES OF A "FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION" IN GRAINS.

3. TAKING THESE FACTORS-INCLUDING THE RUSSIAN INVOLVEMENT-- INTO CONSIDERATION, MALVE SAID THAT HE HAD MADE A JUDGMENT THAT IT WOULD BE GOOD TO CONTINUE SOME WORK IN THE LONDON FRAMEWORK AND NOT CUT IT OFF. CONSEQUENTLY, HE HAD PROPOSED A FEW WEEKS FOR REFLECTION WITH THE POSSIBILITY THAT ANOTHER AD HOC MEETING IN LONDON COULD THEN REVIEW THE SITUATION. (SUBSEQUENT TO HIS RETURN, HE HAS COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE AUSTRALIAN EFFORT TO EXPAND THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE IWC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO INCLUDE RESERVES SHOULD BE BLOCKED, BOTH BECAUSE IT WILL COME TOO SOON AND BE TOO STRUCTURED.)

4. MALVE SAID THAT IT IS NECESSARY IN THE NEAR TERM TO GO VERY SLOWLY WITH THE LONDON WORK FOR TWO REASONS. SPEED WILL FRIGHTEN THE RUSSIANS AND SPEED WILL FRIGHTEN THE MEMBER STATES, SOME OF THE LATTER OF WHICH HAVE BEEN FEARFUL OF GRAINS DISCUSSIONS OUTSIDE THE MTN CONTEXT. EVENTUALLY IF SOMETHING IS DONE IN THE LONDON CONTEXT, IT WILL HAVE TO BE RELATED TO THE MTN, BUT IT IS PREMATURE TO TRY TO DECIDE NOW WHAT THAT LINK SHOULD BE.

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PAGE 03 STATE 033136

5. MALVE SAID THAT HE NOW HAS TO SELL HIS POSITION IN THE COMMISSION, BEGINNING WITH RABOT. BUT HE BELIEVES THAT THE ADVANTAGES FOR THE COMMUNITY OF KEEPING THE LONDON POSSIBILITIES OPEN JUSTIFY SOME RISKS NOW THAT IT IS CLEAR THAT IN THE LONDON CONTEXT RESERVES WOULD BE DISCUSSED ONLY AS PART OF A LARGER PICTURE. GREENWALD UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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